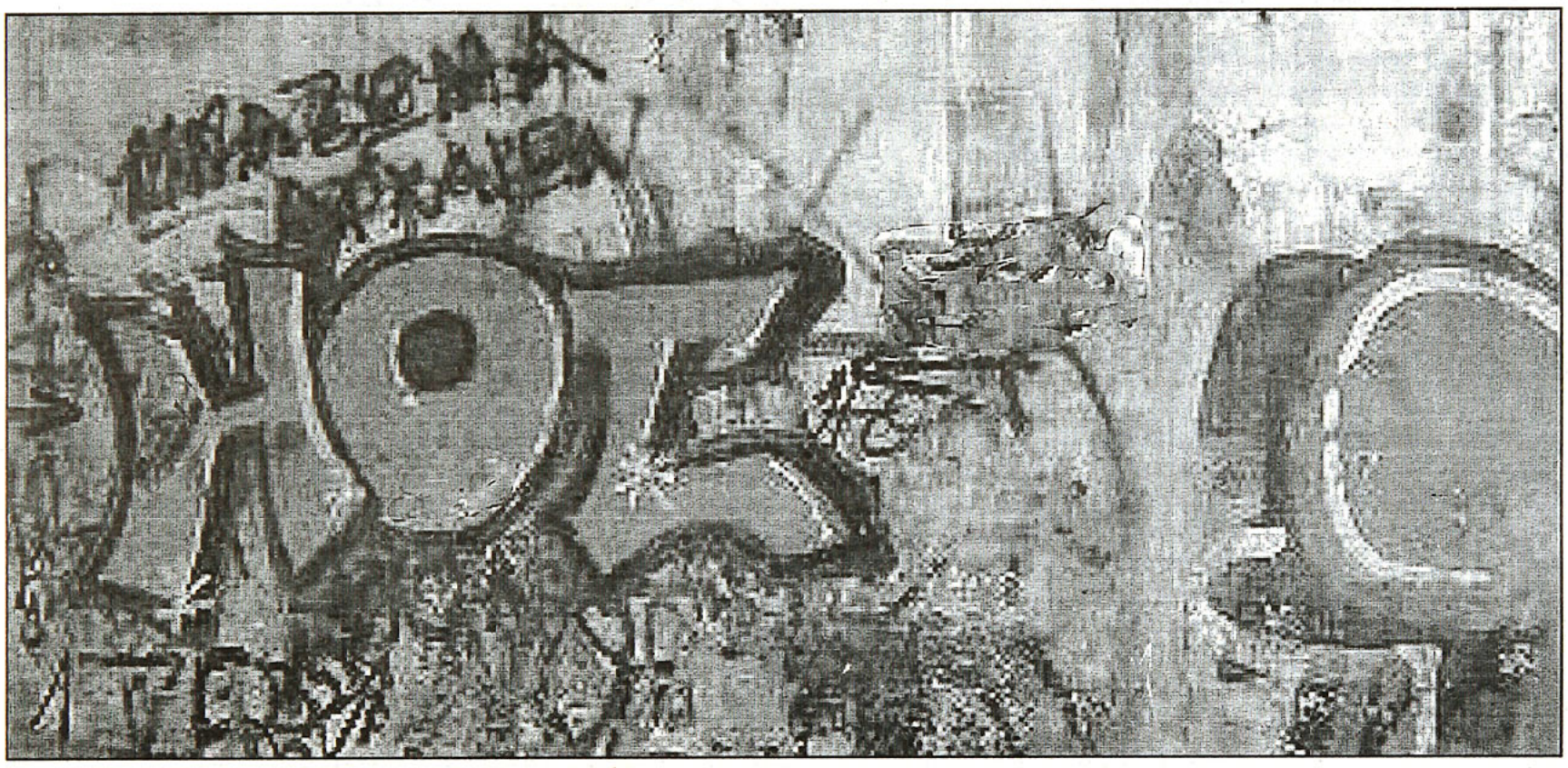
THE Lions' Pride
OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2005 VOLUME XXXVIII No. 8 SINCE 1965



Vandalism can become an expensive problem for students who live on campus.

Havoc in Henderson

Residence Life hopes students will help monitor their own dwellings.

BY JENNIFER REILLY
Lions' Pride Entertainment Editor

SAINT LEO - It is stated at the bottom of the Saint Leo Residence Life rooming contract, "As a member of a campus community I understand that I am responsible for all common areas such as suites, lobbies, and hallway areas."

These forms are signed and dated every August and January when new students move into the eight different residence halls on the Saint Leo campus. This past fall, the residents of Henderson Hall felt the impact of this policy when each person was charged for damage done to the lounge, hallways, bathrooms, and stair wells.

"In order to avoid being charged residents need to help monitor what takes place in their community, said Mark Stier, director of residence life. "As a part of our Benedictine values of respect and community we expect our community members to hold one another accountable for inappropriate behavior."

However, some students believe that holding everyone responsible for the actions of few is unfair.

"It is our goal to provide a safe and clean environment for all members of our community. It is unfortunate when a few people spoil our community because of inappropriate behavior."

Mark Stier

"It's easy to figure out who did it if you look around, so it's not fair," said sophomore Henderson resident, Josh Walker.

Although students can speculate who actually causes the damage, no one seems to want to disclose information to Residence Life.

When asked if he would turn someone in, Walker replied, "maybe." His roommate, Jason Rhodes interjected, "Depends on who it is."

Sophomore Henderson resident Josh Davis believes the damages were caused by "senseless idiocy at its best."

"Why not hit up the kids who constantly violate policies- like alcohol?" sophomore, Steve Walkiewicz, suggested.

The minimum charge is $10 per resident living in the area where vandalism or damage is done. The Residence Life policy defines vandalism as "a willful and intentional act," for this reason charges can actually be two times as much as the actual repair or replacement cost.

In order to make Henderson less susceptible to vandalism, Residence Life has had to close the lounge, hire a full-time staff member to supervise the building, and lock and alarm the back doors 24 hours a day. The lounge was closed for the month of December and is now open only when a Resident Assistant (RA) is on duty.

"They broke cue sticks, and were using them to poke holes in the ceiling, and were tearing the blinds," said Henderson RA, Katie Connolly.

"I've been playing pool in Benoit because they won't let us use ours," said Rhodes.

Benoit Hall has had a lot of residents from Henderson using the lounge and laundry facilities. Some Benoit residents fear that

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Opinions

EDITORIAL

Government needs to take care of veterans

STAFF EDITORIAL
Daily Bruin (U. California-Los Angeles)

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — Almost 1,400 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq since the invasion. Many signed up for the military during a time of peace — and had almost no expectation that they could fight and die in such a faraway land. Now Congress is finally moving to increase the death benefits paid to the spouses and children of soldiers who have been killed in action.

Between 1991 and 2003, survivors received only $6,000 when their husbands, wives, fathers and mothers were killed in the line of duty. Only in 2003 did Congress double that number to a tax-free $12,000.

But even $12,000 is a pathetically small amount when one considers the money goes to rebuilding an individual's entire life. Realizing that, Congress is now considering an increase of the death gratuity to $100,000 — a much more useful sum. Though it seems impossible to put a fixed monetary value on a person's life and no amount of money can replace a loved one, the money undoubtedly helps in many practical ways.

In addition to the increased gratuity, Congress is considering other benefits in the event of a soldier's death — including free health insurance for children through age 22 and increasing the Serviceman's Group Life Insurance maximum coverage to $300,000.

The cost of the new death benefits would not be enormous — especially compared to the overall military budget of about $500 billion. If the U.S. gave $100,000 for every soldier killed in Iraq since 2003, the cost to taxpayers would be less than $140 million.

Witnessing the United States spend billions on training, tanks and planes makes the lack of support for families of those who die fighting look so much more egregious.

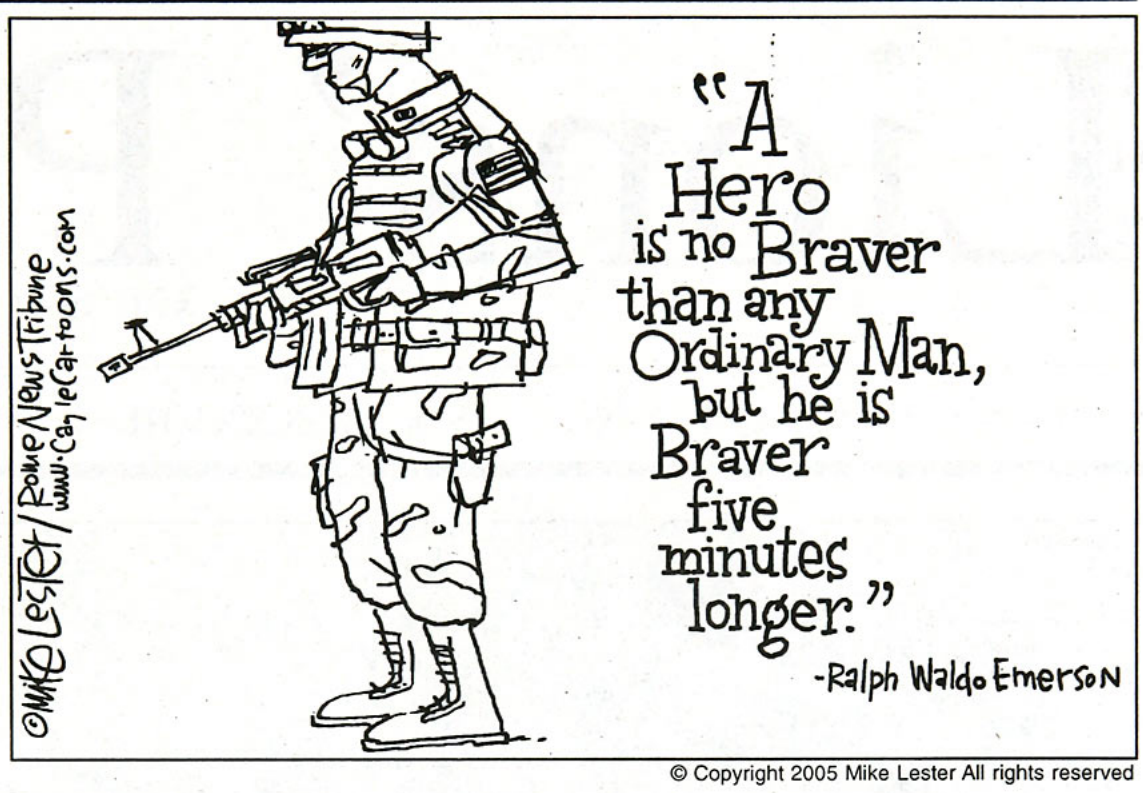
In addition to supporting soldiers' families, over 10,000 U.S. troops have been wounded in Iraq. Many of these wounded have received serious injuries and were only saved by advanced medical techniques.

Amputations, crippling pain and a general reduction in quality of life will affect them for the rest of their lives — they need and deserve quality health care and the full support of the government.

And, even for those soldiers who received no physical injuries, participating in the Iraq war means coming back to the United States and reintegrating into jobs, family and civilian life.

Especially for those who have killed in battle, this transition can be difficult. Some early reports indicate that Iraq war veterans are beginning to make their way to America's streets in an ominous echo of the Vietnam War's legacy.

Congress should increase the death gratuity, but it also should not forget the men and women who make it back to their homes and families — often with physical and psychological injuries. Additionally, Congress should reconsider the limitations on these benefits. Not all families today consist of a husband, a wife and 2.5 kids. Those who are willing to die for the government should be able to designate who should receive benefits — even if that person isn't a traditional spouse.



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Harvard's president spoke disrespectfully

STAFF EDITORIAL
Daily Trojan (U. Southern California)

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — In a Jan. 14 speech to a group of scholars at an academic conference, Lawrence H. Summers, the president of Harvard University, wondering aloud why fewer females succeed in math and science, suggested that men are more genetically inclined to succeed in those areas, according to Reuters.

Summers later explained that he was trying to provoke more research into why women are typically underrepresented in those fields.

But the damage was already done.

Harvard's own Faculty of Arts and Sciences' Standing Committee on Women has said that Summers' remarks "serve to reinforce an institutional culture at Harvard that erects numerous barriers to improving the representation of women on the faculty, and to impede our current efforts to recruit top women scholars."

Summers' statements — even if they were, as he suggested, intended to incite further research — were embarrassingly demeaning and certainly counter-productive.

His remarks definitely won't do much to encourage and support the many high-achieving female students already studying at Harvard and around the country. They also won't serve as incentive for talented female scholars and professors to seek out Harvard as their place of study.

If Summers truly wanted to encourage more research on the subject, perhaps he should have simply consulted some of the best minds in the field, many of whom were probably sitting right in front of him.

Ignorant remarks detrimental to notions of equal rights and equal opportunity are upsetting 100 percent of the time, but the fact that this statement was made by someone who represents perhaps the pinnacle of American education is inexcusable.

At any rate, it seems as if the only thing Summers is genetically inclined toward is speaking irrationally and making poor decisions.

Harvard is the leading university in the United States. Its president must be more mindful of what he says in public.

WRITE HERE

The Lions' Pride newsroom is located in portable #4, which is on the west side of St. Edward's Hall. Our phone number is (352) 588-8195.

Send letters to the editor to lions.pride@saintleo.edu

Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department.

Please include a phone number (not for publication) so we can verify authorship.

All letters are subject to editing.
The Lions' Pride reserves the right not to publich any letter or column.

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The holiday for sweethearts

MELANIE WEITZ
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

SAINT LEO - Valentine's Day is known as the holiday of love, the holiday for sweethearts. But why is this day called Valentine's Day?

There are many different legends about Valentine's Day. However, the most popular belief is that Saint Valentine, who is the patron saint for this holiday, was a priest during the third century in Rome. When the Emperor, Claudius II, decided that single men made better soldiers for his army than married ones with wives and children, he banned marriages. Saint Valentine found this to be unfair and began to marry couples in secret. Claudius found out and sentenced Saint Valentine to death.

While Saint Valentine was in prison, he fell in love with the prison guard's daughter. This is when it is said that the first valentine was sent. He sent her a letter which stated at the end, "From your Valentine." This is where that expression came from.

The date of Valentine's Day is said to be in mid-February for many different reasons. Some people believe Valentine was put to death in this month, and so the holiday is celebrated in memory of his death.

In ancient Rome, February was the month of the beginning of spring, which is considered the month of purification. This came about because of "spring cleaning." People would clean their houses to purify them. This is also the time of the year, as Romans believed, that the birds begin to mate. Therefore, it's a very fertile time. These things attributed to the belief that Valentine's Day should be in February.

Today, millions of people across the world participate in celebrating this holiday with a loved one or someone special. What will you be doing?

Interesting facts about Valentine's Day

- Saint Valentine's body was given to an Irish priest by the name of Father Jon Spratt from Pope Gregory SVI. It can still be viewed every Valentine's Day at the Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin, Ireland.
- Cupid, the child-like winged deity that is associated with our modern day Valentine's Day, is the son of Venus, Roman goddess of love. In Greek mythology he is known as Aphrodite's son Eros.
- The oldest known Valentine's day card can be viewed at the British Museum.
- Valentine's day is the second highest ranking holiday for greeting cards. Christmas is the first.
- Approximately 85% of Valentine's Day card senders are women.
- In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia.

(Information provided by historychannel.com)

What does Valentine's Day mean to you?

Pictures and quotes compiled by Carly Romero.

"It was about 11 years ago, just around Valentine's Day when my husband proposed to me. So, for us, Valentine's Day is very special."

Dr. Monica Vo

"My husband and I had our first date on Valentine's Day in 1970. He took me to a boat show. However, we like to celebrate our anniversary more than Valentine's Day."

Dr. Patricia Dooris

"Valentine's Day is a time when a couple can become closer, and single people can become couples, and love is beautifully in the air. Those who do not find love think Valentine's Day is terrible, but they should not be looking for love because love will find them."

Joshua Wethington, sophomore, elementary education

"I believe that Valentine's Day is truly a 'Hallmark Holiday' but I think that the things done on Valentine's Day should be a common thing in a relationship."

Summer Leigh Woodard, sophomore, biology

"Valentine's Day has always been a sweet day not just because of all the candy, but because it gives you an opportunity to show the special person in your life just how much you love him."

Genarita Chiriboga, junior, biology

"Valentine's Day is like valentines. Sometimes you get a good one, and sometimes you get a bad one."

Christie Ricardo, junior, English

"Valentine's Day is a time to show a person how much he/she means to you! Whether or not a person has a significant other or not, doesn't mean that a person can't enjoy the happiness of Valentine's Day!"

Crystal Odom, junior, math

New club excites Anime enthusiasts

BY MICHAEL DEMONARCO
Special to the Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO - As most students raced toward classes, one student in particular patiently trekked across campus, diligently acquiring the 100 signatures needed to start a new club.

Across campus, his colleagues painstakingly drafted a constitution. Slowly, but surely, vibrantly colored flyers began showing up around campus. They read: Anime Club Interest Meeting, Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Saint Leo students were baffled by the concept of anime. But, a small section of the student body came forward with excitement. They, of course, knew anime as Japanese animation. The word anime is essentially the Japanese translation of animation.

More than one dozen students showed up to the first gathering, a good response to an interest meeting. A technical malfunction stalled the video presentation Kimberly Sing had prepared. Consequently, the first few minutes were marked by an uncomfortable quiet, but when sound and video filled the classroom, each student lit up with fascination.

The interaction between students was greater than anyone expected. Individuals who had never met before grouped together and shared their knowledge on the subject.

Although anime has become part of American culture with an emphasis on college students, it is widely misunderstood by mass culture. For decades, American television has aired westernized versions of anime. Only recently have television stations broadcast material more suitable for young adults. But because of its animation complexity, television stations choose to air the programs on late-night television. The popular *Adult Swim,* which is aired on *Cartoon Network,* is a great example of this new breakout.

Anime does not resemble the typical Saturday-morning cartoons seen on American television. Anime is distinguishable from its American counterpart in its depth of characterization, plot formation, and artistic form. Anime bridges many genres: romance, comedy, fantasy, adventure, and science fiction. These genres deal with controversial topics that American animators wouldn't approach. Additionally, there is a hint of Asian influence in the sophistication of the artwork employed. Anime uses more dramatic color schemes and much more detail in individual characters.

"When people think of anime, they immediately think cartoons, and when they think cartoons, they think kids. Anime is not for kids," says Kimberly Sing, club founder. She argues that anime is an art form that can tower alongside a good film.

The club has already shown great progress. Present members hope that this success will last, and the club will ultimately prosper with many new members.

Serving the animals of Hernando County

BY LAUREL FABAC
Special to the Lions' Pride

The Humane Society of the Nature Coast in Hernando County has recently been named Service Organization of the Year for its outstanding work in the community, but it is still dependent on the generosity of citizens, according to Executive Director Joanne Schoch.

Schoch became involved with the Humane Society three years ago.

"My husband and I rescued every stray we saw, and the shelter always said they couldn't take the animal or help us because they were already full. It sounded like they needed help, so I volunteered," says Schoch, who first served as a volunteer, and then spent time as the President of the Board of Directors, before becoming Executive Director last year.

Schoch says that one of the best ways to get involved with the Humane Society is by making a monetary donation. The Humane Society needs donations to cover their veterinary costs, which range from $3,000 to $6,000 every month.

"The more human contact they have, the better their chances are for an expedient adoption."

Joanne Schoch
Executive Director

The Humane Society is also in need of volunteers who can provide services both at the shelter itself and out in the community.

At the shelter, volunteers can work with animals, helping them get used to people.

"The more human contact they have, the better their chances are for an expedient adoption," says Schoch. "We need walkers, bathers, groomers, people to play with our cats and hold and pet them."

They also need volunteers to do custodial work around the shelter, to answer phones, and to greet visitors.

"Some folks are reluctant to help at the shelter because they want to take all the pets home," explains Schoch. For those who want to volunteer their time, but don't want to work at the shelter, there are other opportunities available. The Human Society needs volunteers to help with educational programs and fundraising, and people to help raise awareness in the community.

The Humane Society has managed to do a remarkable service for the people of Hemando County. Besides the work they do with animals, they also offer community service opportunities to children and adults, teaching them the values of responsibility and pet care. They operate a thrift store for needy families and make finding homes for the pets of terminally ill citizens a priority, so that "these individuals pass with the peace of knowing their beloved pet is already in a loving home."

However, as the Humane Society of the Nature Coast in Hernando County does not receive county, state, or federal funding, this no-kill shelter depends solely on the donations of the community to stay in operation.

Schoch said the most rewarding part if her job is "placing a homeless animal in a new and loving home."

To find out how you can help Schoch and others who work with the Humane Society, or to find out how to give a donation, visit the Humane Society of the Nature Coast's website, at www.Naturecoasthumanesociety.org, or call (352) 232-3032.

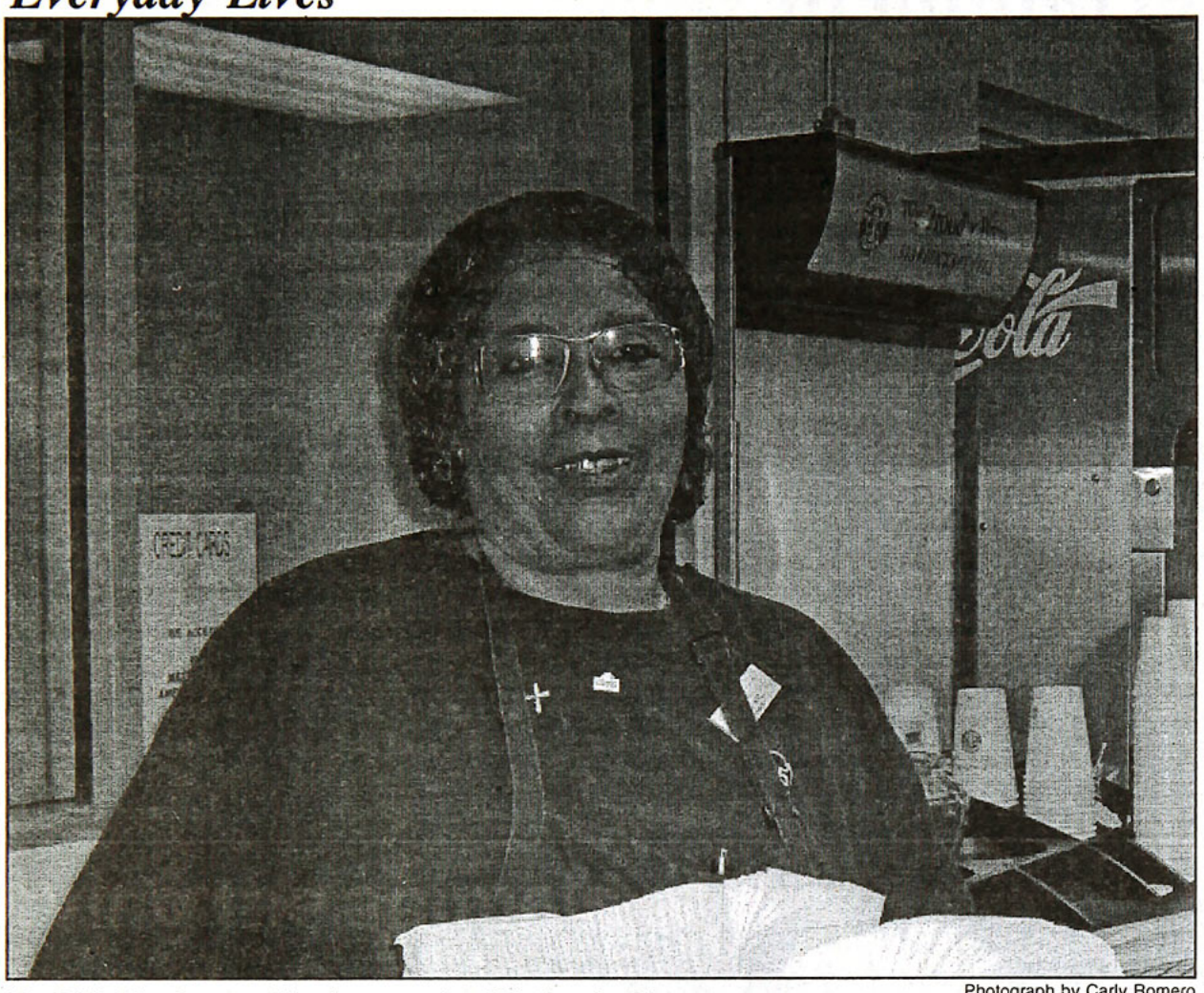
Saint Leo Abbey and Saint Leo University
Cordially invite you to join in a Celebration of Thanksgiving In Honor of
Reverend James Tingerthal, O.S.B., and Reverend Robert Velten, O.S.B.,
Outgoing and Incoming Administrators of Saint Leo Abbey.

Organ Concert at the Historic Abbey Church of the Holy Cross
6P.M. - 7P.M.
Saturday, February 12, 2005

The Monastic Community is pleased to present Mr. Peter Kinzie, Organist & Owner of Church Organ Concepts. Mr. Kinzie and two of his colleagues will perform on the Abbey's Ahlborn-Galanti. They will feature various selections from a standard classical organ repertoire. The concert will be followed by "Night Prayer" at 7:05 P.M. at the Abbey Church, and immediately after Compline, a reception with refreshments in the Abbey's breezeway.

The concert is open to the public at no charge, The Church is accessible to the handicapped, and ample parking is available for your convenience.
For further information, please contact: Ramiro Gallegos, at the Development Office, (352)-588-8619

Everyday Lives



Ms. Willie Mae Armwood has been serving Saint Leo for 21 years.

Photograph by Carly Romero

The kids are her favorite part.

BY LAUREL FABAC
Special to The Lions' Pride

If you get your food from the Snack Bar in the Cage, chances are you're familiar with Ms. Willie Mae Armwood, whose warm, outgoing personality has been making Saint Leo's students and faculty feel welcome in the Cage for over 20 years.

The first time I remember talking to Armwood, I was standing in line in the Cage, waiting to pay for pop-tarts; I had just received a compliment on my hair from someone who was in line behind me.

"I'd have to agree with him," Armwood piped in matter-of-factly from her spot behind the cash register.

A couple minutes later, she engaged me in another conversation about my hair, complimenting me yet again. Having never seen me in the Cage before, Armwood asked me if I attended Saint Leo. I explained I was a commuter, and I usually brought food from home.

"Well, any time you don't have food, you come in here and we'll make sure you get some," she said generously.

Apparently, my experience with Armwood wasn't an unusual one.

"Everyone calls her grandma by their second or third year, said Annie Walls, the food service manager of the Cage. "She's a really great lady."

Armwood, who is the A.M. supervisor in the Snack Bar, has been with Saint Leo for 21 years. Originally from Alabama, she obtained the job in 1983, when another employee left, leaving the position open.

Though she is described by her manager as loyal and hardworking, Armwood also has a fun side. When asked what she liked to do outside of work, she thought about it for a while, then answered simply, "Cook. Clean. And party."

During the time she's worked here, Saint Leo has undergone "so many big changes," that it was hard for her to pinpoint just one.

"We've changed food services two or three times, and we've changed presidents," said Armwood.

However, one thing has remained the same for the past 21 years: her her favorite part of working at Saint Leo.

Without hesitation Armwood said, "The kids. You all are the best part of working here."

Everyday Lives is an occasional article that runs in The Lions' Pride. If you know someone who would be an interesting candidate for this article, please e-mail The Lions' Pride at lions.pride@saintleo.edu.

Greek recruitment week a success

MELANIE WEITZ
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

SAINT LEO - Greek recruitment week is over, and it was very successful.

Both the fraternities and sororities had an awesome turnout of interested people. For the fraternities, at least 40 men came out with an estimated 50, while the sororities also had a successful turnout of women as well.

Students had different reasons for wanting to be recruited into a fraternity or sorority.

"I went out for recruitment because I wanted to be part of a life-long organization," confides sophomore Tyrell Johnson.

Freshman Mary Major explains that she went out for recruitment, "to find a group of girls that had the same values and morals that I live by and to become sisters with."

The schedule of events varied between the fraternities and sororities. For the fraternities, the week started on Monday, January 24 with an open house and ended on Friday, January 28, with new members accepting their bids. The guys were involved in many different activities, such as poker night, ping pong, and interest parties.

"I would have to say that my favorite part of the week was Thursday night, individual interest parties," explains sophomore Matt Matos. "It gave me a good chance to meet everybody."

"Individual interest parties night on Thursday was well-organized," Johnson said. "This night they gave you more information on what kind of organization you would be signing up for, for the rest of your life."

The sorority events started on Sunday with an open house and ended with Friday's bid day. A lot of sisterly bonding went on during this week for the girls who came out. Everyone got to meet a bunch of new people, and it was a lot of fun.

"My favorite event during recruitment week was the open night," states Major. "I got to experience all the different sororities and meet the different girls. You really got to know them this night."

The one-on-one interaction with the fraternities and sororities seemed to be a favorite during this week.

VANDALISM CON'T

this may increase the vandalism and common area damage.

"Most of the time, guys from Henderson come over to use our lounge, and if they damage it, we'd be charged," said sophomore Cassie Millhouse.

"The females in the building tend to take more pride in the facilities, and they take care of them," said Benoit RA, Marisa Mingus.

"Only when the residents accept that they own, indirectly, the equipment, will there be more effort to look after the items present in the common areas," said Gen O'Connor, the new hall director for Henderson.

Saint Leo is not the only campus with these policies. Both the University of North Florida and the University of Florida have similar policies regarding common areas. University of North Florida even requires that residents pay a $100 housing deposit, which is only refunded after common areas have been assessed at the end of the semester. Ideally, University policies like these would ensure that residents take care of the building in which they live.

"It is our goal to provide a safe and clean environment for all members of our community," Stier said. "It is unfortunate when a few people spoil our community because of inappropriate behavior."

Arts & Entertainment

Courtesy of the Uncle John's Band

For the past four years UJB has performed Thursday nights at Skipper's Smokehouse in Tampa. Uncle John's Band performs 6-10 shows per month within the Bay area.

"Uncle John's Band"

BY WALLY MISKA
Special to the Lions' Pride

"Do you believe in rock 'n roll?" "Can music save your mortal soul?" If so, you surely would love the music of Uncle John's Band.

Uncle John's Band was formed in 1990 in Clearwater, FL by six brilliant musicians who live to play the music of the Grateful Dead. They are diverse and jam on a plethora of songs written by the Grateful Dead, such as "Shakedown Street," "Fire on the Mountain," "Casey Jones," "Sugar Magnolia," and their namesake, "Uncle John's Band." They recreate the musical energy and atmosphere of an actual Grateful Dead show. In addition to classic Dead songs they often cover songs like "Quinn the Eskimo," by Manfred Mann, "The Wait," by The Band, and "Tangled up In Blue," by Bob Dylan to keep the audience on their feet.

The band has been performing at Skippers Smokehouse in Tampa since 1996 and has several other venues at which they appear regularly including the State Theatre in St. Petersburg, Vinoy Park, the Clearwater Pier, and numerous local clubs and bars.

The band consists of five members including Dan DeGregory and Jamie Lavecchia on drums, Alan Gilman on lead guitar and vocals, Art Nelson on keyboard, Rich Whiteley on rhythm guitar and vocals, and last but not least, John Zias on lead guitar. Each of the members has been playing for over a decade, and they do a mind-blowing job at recreating the sounds of the Dead.

These musicians rock with ease and send even the most reserved audience members into dancing frenzies. Rick Evans, a local dervish and frequent patron of Skipper's, calls the band, "incendiary."

Uncle John's Band plays every Thursday night from 8p.m. to midnight at Skipper's Smokehouse. Bring the kids, your friends, and most importantly, don't forget yourself. Be prepared for a groovy night. For questions about the band, their performances, and beer specials or other information, contact Skipper's Smokehouse at (813) 971-0666. Or, check out the Uncle John's Band website at www.unclejohnsband.com.

WORST MOVIES OF 2004

BY JAMES EPPLER
University Daily (Texas Tech U.)

(U-WIRE) LUBBOCK, Texas - Being a film critic is probably one of the greatest jobs in the world. But, as with any profession, there is a downside.

Critics do not usually get to choose which movies they see — we have to see them all. That is, of course, unless we conveniently decide to take a vacation around certain films' releases.

Here are the top 10 films that made my job a chore this year.

No. 1: "White Chicks"

While my favorite film of the year, "Baadasssss!" represented a huge step forward in race relations, "White Chicks" is the complete opposite. Not only is this Wayans brothers film painfully unfunny, it furthers the hypocrisy of race relations that films like "Baadasssss!" and even "Coach Carter" are trying to dismantle. Need proof? You'll never see a white director permitted to make a film called "Black Chicks."

No. 2: "Godsend"

The low-point of Robert DeNiro's career (aside from "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Movie"). Raymond. I can't stand Ray Romano, and Gene Hackman, along with DeNiro, has reached a career low.

No 3: "Catwoman"

Halle Berry wins the Oscar and then makes "Gothika" and "Catwoman." That's two strikes. The S&M Catwoman costume was interesting, but Berry is going to have to work hard to redeem herself now.

No. 4: "The Chronicles of Riddick"

The video game is better than the film. Vin Diesel now not only has to answer gay rumors, but work to save a dwindling film career.

No. 5: "Torque"

This motorcycle mush makes "2 Fast 2 Furious" look like poetry.

No. 6: "Welcome to Mooseport"

Not everybody loves Ben Stiller and Jack Black star in a film about a spray that makes poop disappear. It wouldn't be strong enough to work on this film, though.

No. 8: "Surviving Christmas"

Ben Affleck is becoming a "worst of the year" all-star. The man needs his own support group. Or maybe an intervention. Regardless, "Surviving" had the fastest theater-to-DVD turn of the year — only two months.

No. 9: "The Grudge"

This film proves that not everything with the claim "Made in Japan" is quality. The film goes nowhere, all while incorporating ultra-cheap scares.

No. 10: The historical epic four-way tie: "The Alamo," "Alexander," "King Arthur" and "Troy."

"The Alamo" is the result of Disney's willingness to cut corners. The film was originally to be directed by Ron Howard and to star Russell Crowe as Sam Houston. Instead we get "The Rookie" director John Lee Hancock and his pal Dennis Quaid.

Director Oliver Stone now readily admits he blew "Alexander," his three-hour bore-fest about the Greek warrior, and "King Arthur" is a cookie-cutter epic that was soon forgotten after a good night's sleep.

"Troy" was probably the least horrible of the four, but the film has the authenticity of a computer screensaver, and Brad Pitt looked like he should have been on a runway instead of a battlefield.

Ten films I conveniently missed: "Anacondas: Hunt for the Blood Orchid," "AVP: Alien vs. Predator," "The Big Bounce," "Christmas with the Kranks," "Connie and Carla," "My Baby's Daddy," "Seed of Chucky," "Soul Plane," "Taxi," and "The Yu-Gi-Oh Movie."

DVDs IN REVIEW

"Napoleon Dynamite"

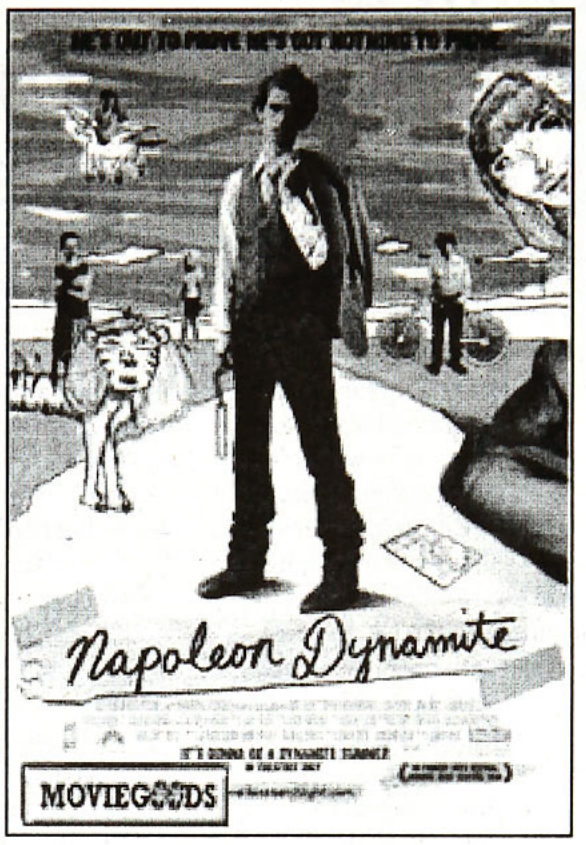
He's out to prove he's got nothing to prove.

BY JENNIFER REILLY
Lions' Pride Entertainment Editor

Recently released DVD, *Napoleon Dynamite* has become a fad, like boondoggle key chains and curled bangs. Although *Dynamite* was nominated for awards at The Sundance Film Festival and The Independent Spirit Awards, its release in the theatres was limited, and the name Napoleon was barely a whisper among movie goers. Today, quotes like "whatever I feel like I wanna do, gosh," and "your mom goes to college," are recognizable and frequently repeated. Director, Jared Hess could not have expected the sudden success of *Dynamite* when he was editing the film in his apartment using a $6,000 Macintosh with Final Cut Pro.

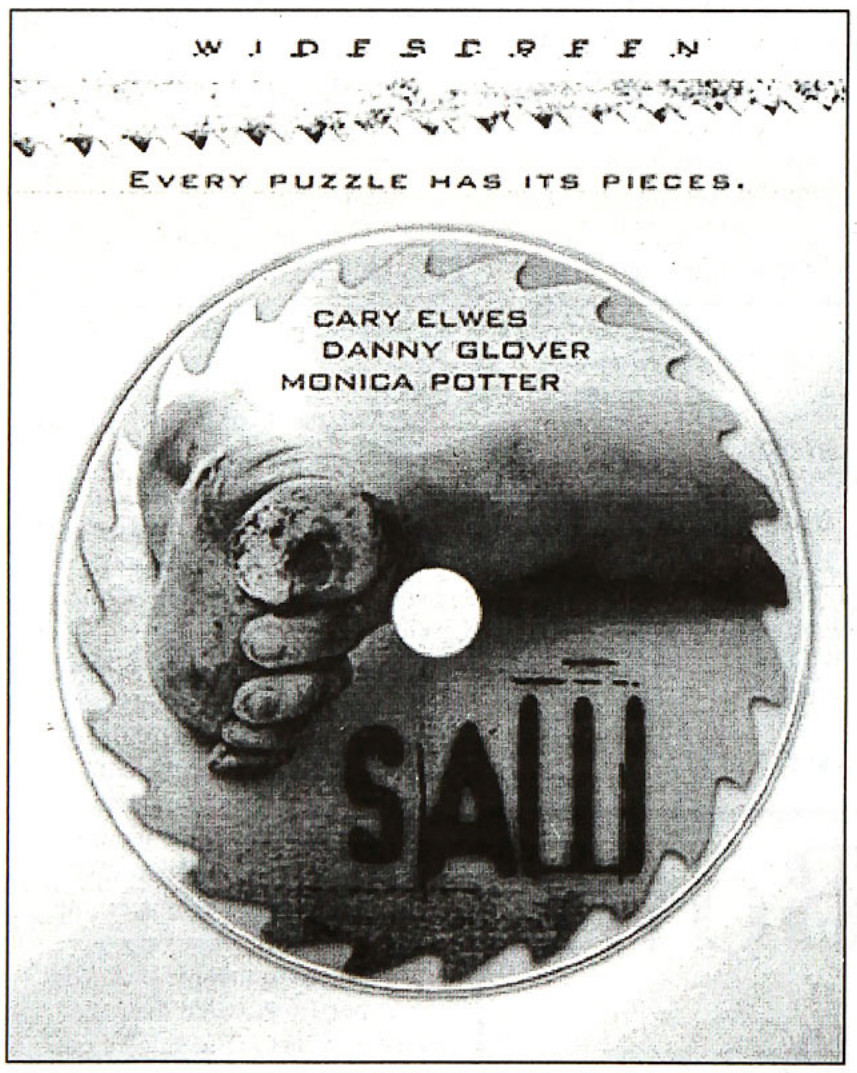
The film depicts the Dynamite family in their hometown of Preston, Idaho. Napoleon, (Jon Heder), and his 32-year-old brother Kip, (Aaron Ruell), are even more eccentric than classic nerd characters like those featured in *Revenge of the Nerds* and *Weird Science.* They live with their grandmother and Tina, their ham eating llama. When grandma takes a spill at the sand dunes, Uncle Rico (Jon Gries) steps in to take care of the boys.

Throughout the movie, you experience Napoleon's gawky day-to-day life and become acquainted with his many hobbies like drawing, dancing, and of course, tetherball. He never has an opponent in his games of tetherball until he notices Deb (Tina Majorino), and their awkward romance begins. When Napoleon meets the kind hearted Pedro (Efren Ramirez), the two form an unbreakable friendship. Together, they're originality launches them from underdog status to kings of the school. However, this does not happen without constant aggravation from Uncle Rico and the prissy school president, Summer (Haylie Duff).



Although the characters of Dynamite tend to require a stretch of the imagination, many people can relate their own high school experiences to those of Napoleon and his friends. Summer represents all the girls in high school who drove the boys mad.
Pedro is that one shy friend that no one takes seriously but actually has tremendous spirit. Napoleon himself can be seen as the nerd inside all of us. He has imagination and heart buried in a monotone voice and agape mouth.

The DVD features include audio commentary by Hess, producer Jeremy Coon, and Heder, the original short film "Peluca" with optional commentary, "The Wedding of the Century" making of featurette, deleted scenes, and a stills gallery.



"Saw"

Every piece has its puzzle.

BY MICHAEL BROCHU
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Saw isn't your run of the mill horror movie. The debut film from writer/director James Wan was Co-written by star Leigh Whanell (The Matrix Reloaded) and proves to please a gore loving audience. It was a low budget film that took less than $2 million to make but raked in over $53.2 million at the domestic box office.

The movie begins with Adam (Whanell) and Lawrence played by Cary Elwes (The Princess Bride) chained to the pipes of a dilapidated building's rest room. The two men are on opposite ends of the room, where in the center lies a bloody human corpse. They are given a tape recorder that reveals clues to them that lead the two desperate men to uncover different tools that would allow them to escape. The tools include two saws, a cell phone (that is unable to make outgoing calls), two cigarettes, one bullet, and an unloaded gun.

The two men unknowingly have been selected as participants in a serial killer's sick game. If Lawrence does not kill Adam by the killer's deadline, then his wife and daughter will be murdered. The film shows other scenarios played out involving the other victims who had fallen prey to the serial killer. The tactics of the mysterious killer are revealed as Detective Tapp (Danny Glover) follows the killer's calling card.

The 1 hour, 40 min. film is extremely gruesome and does not hold a candle to such toned down horror films as *Halloween* or *Friday the Thirteenth.* Although *Saw* is rated R, it has enough gore to tip close to a NC-17 rating.

The acting was just as horrifying as the film itself. Many of the scenes were over dramatized as the actor's seemed to reveal too much emotion, making what should be a dramatic scene rather humorous. The only character who seemed to hold his character well is Whanell, who was making his first solid acting debut in this film.

If you are looking for a classis horror film, look elsewhere, however if a hard core gory film with graphic images entices you, then *Saw* might be your idea of entertainment. *Saw* will be available on DVD February 15 and will include audio commentary with James Wan and Leigh Whanell, a making of the film, a music video, and a documentary titled, "Bite the Hand That Bleeds."

Top 10 Video Rentals for the Week Ending January 23

(1) The Forgotten

(2) Cellular

(3) The Village

(4) Friday Night Lights

(5) Catwoman

(6) Troy

(7) Without a Paddle

(8) Paparazzi

(9) Napoloen Dynamite

(10) The Manchurian Candidate

(http://www.imdb.com/boxoffice/rentals)

Sports

Defense should be the main feature for the Lions' softball team this year

BY MATTHEW McGOWAN
Lions' Pride Staff

SAINT LEO - Coach Christi Wade thinks this year's Saint Leo University softball team has the talent and ability to win the Sunshine State Conference.

"I think this group, talent wise, is the best we have had since our team of 2002 that advanced to the NCAA post season tournament. We have the talent," said Wade, who has been coaching the Lions for nine years.

The Lions did very well last season with a 36-22 overall record and went 8-13 in the SSC.

Last year, the Lions relied on the excellent pitching of junior lefthander Katie Heintz of Portland, OR, and senior righthander Heather Gamilin of North Delta, British Columbia. Heintz set a new school record with 294 strikeouts in a single season. She also was 20-11 last season with a 0.77 earned run average and 13 shutouts. She was selected second-team, All-SSC and second-team, All-South Region. Gamlin was 16-11 with a 1.73 ERA and had three shutouts. She also added 193 strikeouts. Wade believes that the addition of new pitching coach Jana Fields will make the pitching even better.

"We had a good staff before, but now with a pitching coach who was a great pitcher herself in college and an outstanding coach, our staff will reap the benefits of her being here," Wade said.

Defense should be the main feature again for the Lions this year. Last year they set a school record with a team fielding percentage of .962.

The Lions also have many talented players returning from great years last year. Sophomore Erin Brunt of Clearwater, Fla., who made second-team, All-SSC last year is one of them. Also two-time All-America Denyve Duncan of Dunedin, Fla., returns for her senior year. The 2004 SSC co-player-of-the-year led the league in hitting with a .403 average as a junior.

"Denyve is just so self-motivated," said Wade. "She just wants to play. She is the staple of our infield, our field general, and our lead-off hitter."

Wade is also proud of her new freshman players. The Lions' No. 1 goal this year is to win the conference championship.

"We have eight schools in our way," said Wade. "We are all very equal. Those who will be at the top at the end are the ones who make the fewest mistakes. We are very much interested in being one of those teams and, in the process, return to post-season competition again."

The Lions have a good shot at accomplishing their goal as they have the talent and ingredients to challenge for the top spot in 2005.

Courtesy of the athletic department
Softball seniors: Ashley Black, Heather Gamlin (seated), Mindy Miltner (standing with no bat), and Denyve Duncan

Dynasty over Destiny by a field goal

BY MATTHEW McGOWAN
Lions' Pride Staff

In the game that is being called Dynasty vs. Destiny, the New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles should put together a very interesting and exciting game in Jacksonville on Sunday, February 6. The Patriots were able to make their way through the playoffs by playing great defense against the top scoring team in the league, allowing only three points to the Colts, and by capitalizing on the Steelers' turnovers. The smart play of Tom Brady, who has never lost a playoff game in his career, led the Patriot offense without turning the ball over. The scheming of Bill Belichick's defense was proven amazing yet again this post-season. The Patriots also will be looking for their third Super Bowl title in five years. This would put an end to the argument that in this era of free agency the Pats are a dynasty.

For the Eagles, it is about time. After losing in three straight NFC championship games they have finally won and have a real chance to win the Super Bowl. The Eagles were able to contain the freakish running ability of Michael Vick with "The Freak," Javon Kearse. The play of quarterback Donovan McNabb has been that of maturity and pose when they needed it most. The most impressive play of the NFC title game was when McNabb had the pocket close in around him, avoided four separate tackles and found a receiver for a much needed first down. If he continues his tidy play, the Eagles could be lifting the Lombardi Trophy.

SUPER BOWL
XXXIX
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

The main X-factor of this game will be if All-Pro wide receiver Terrell Owens will be able to play or not because of a leg injury. If he is able to be in the line up, the Patriot's secondary, which is struggling with injuries, might not have the man power to stop the Eagles' receivers. He is questionable after suffering a leg break that has kept him out since week 7. He has said all along that if the Eagles make it to the Super Bowl it would take a straight jacket to keep him off the field. The Patriots are very willing to find one for him.

Another big factor in the game will be if the Eagles, who have not been to the high pressure of the Super Bowl, and deal with the distractions, against the Patriots who were there, and won, just last year. The Eagles feel like this year is their year, while the Patriots must feel like every year is their year.

These two teams have many contrasts but the biggest is something that is not of the football field. The thing that separates these two teams is free agency. The Patriots are not a team that goes out and buys the best free agents on the market. They have a very similar team to the one that won the Super Bowl twice over the past few years. The Eagles on the other hand were very active in the free agent market this past summer and signed three of the biggest names in T.O., Jevon Kearse, and Jeremiah Trotter.

Prediction: The Eagles have a strong team, but the Patriots just know how to win. A last second field goal by Adam Veniterri gives it to New England 27-24.